REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending. Independent claims 1, 34, and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Riley (USP 6,633,788) in view of Uchida (USP 6,336,107) and further in view of Coyle (USP 6,546,507). Independent claims 22 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Riley, Winkelman (USP 4,435,752), and DeRoo (USP 5,802,376). Independent claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Winkelman, DeRoo, and Mueller (USP re 31,736).

Claims 34-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner stated "limitations recited in claim 34 contain computer code for executing various steps and a computer readable medium that stores the computer code which are not statutory subject matter." Claims 34-53 are believed to be statutory subject matter. However, independent claim 34 has been amended to more clearly recite a computer program product comprising computer code. Consequently, the rejection to independent claim 34 is believed overcome.

Riley describes a system for optimizing "design, development and manufacturing procedures" for bringing a product to market (column 1:15-20). "The process of optimising these procedures generally involves improving the sequence of the activities making up the procedure and/or modifying, replacing, adding or deleting activities of the procedure. Typically, the possible alterations to a procedure are numerous. Some alterations will improve the procedure while others will be detrimental to the procedure. There may also be conflicting requirements placed on the procedure, for example, one requirement may be minimising costs, while another may be improving quality, in which case alternatives to the existing procedure may be advantageous in relation to one requirement whilst being detrimental in relation to another requirement" (column 1:23-35).

Uchida provides a computer program for "automatically arranging" elements on a printed circuit board (PCB). "Past positions of a plurality of composing elements indicated by various past arrangement examples are given to each potential function corresponding to one composing element, and parameter values of the potential functions corresponding to the composing elements are automatically set on condition that a past total potential energy obtained by solving

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the potential functions is minimized" (Abstract).

DeRoo "permits system stress testing without the need of instruction stream generated cycles. The testing can be performed, for example, for purposes of design verification, diagnostic testing after an error has been encountered, or on a regular basis, e.g., as part of power on self-test (POST) procedures. The invention permits deterministic saturations of the bus when and where desired, e.g., for inducing various forms of error conditions, such as system-level bottlenecks and latencies, in a reproducible manner. The invention can also be used to associate a "victim" bit on a bus with its "aggressor" bit, and thus trace causes of bus error conditions" (Summary Paragraph 2).

Winkelman states that "The invention herein is an efficient technique for managing the assignment of rotating storage device resources for a plurality of data files. The rotating storage device for which the invention herein is described is a head-per-track disc, but the concepts involved apply also to magnetic drum memories, moveable arm discs, and other cyclic memory devices." (Description Paragraph 4).

Mueller describes a "computer system including a storage means such as a random access memory (RAM) for receiving data to be displayed upon a display means, e.g. a color cathode ray tube, a microprocessor for control of the computer system operations, and viewer input devices such as a control stick or keyboard, whereby the viewer may respond selectively to the data displayed upon the display means" (Abstract).

Although none of the references either alone or in combination are believed to teach or suggest all of the elements of the recited claims, independent claims 1, 22, 30, 34, and 54 are being amended to clarify and in some cases broaden the scope of the claims.
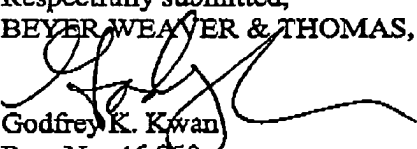
Claims 1, 34, and 54 have been amended to variably recite "identifying license information associated with a protected intellectual property block; generating operationally limited hardware and software, wherein the hardware and software is operationally limited using license information."

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Claims 22 and 30 have been amended to recite "wherein the run time limit is configured at least in part using license information associated with a protected intellectual property block implemented on the hardware device."

The amendments are believed supported at least in Figure 2B, (page 3, line 18 – page 4, line 6), (page 15, line 6 – page 16, line 4), and associated description. None of the references cited by the Examiner teaches or suggests "an intellectual property block configured for implementation on a device" or "license information associated with a protect intellectual property block." No mention in the references is made to "generating operationally limited hardware and software using license information."

In light of the above remarks relating to independent claims and certain dependent claims, the remaining dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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